

# CEO E-Briefing

A weekly report to City Council and the community

November 18, 2011

No. 22



## CEO's Message



## Get ready for some football!

There are some great football games on television this weekend, including Michigan vs. Nebraska, Ohio State vs. Penn State, and USC vs. Oregon.

But don't forget the best football game to watch: Estancia vs. Costa Mesa.

Our two highly ranked high school teams fought it out last week in the annual Battle of the Bell at Estancia's Jim Scott Stadium, and the cross-town rivalry was covered by our CMTV 24 crew led by play-by-play announcer and director **Dane Bora** and Video Production's **Brad Long**.

The contest will be broadcast on CMTV 24 (channel 24 on Time Warner cable and channel 99 on AT&T's U-Verse) at 8 p.m. Friday; Saturday at 7 p.m.; Sunday at 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.; and Tuesday at 6 p.m. It is also available on demand through the [City's website](#).

You'll be impressed by the production values. The broadcast features self-introductions from the starting players (including nicknames and elementary schools), a three-camera shoot and halftime videos produced by students from the two schools.

While some people (like myself) were disappointed in the game's final score (our family bleeds Mustang green and white), I predict everyone who views the Battle of the Bell broadcast in the coming days will feel a sense of victory for CMTV 24.

Congratulations to the Estancia Eagles and to the entire community for this wonderful event and celebration.

**Tom Hatch**, chief executive officer, City of Costa Mesa



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Comments or suggestions, please contact  
[william.lobdell@costamesaca.gov](mailto:william.lobdell@costamesaca.gov)



City of Costa Mesa



Costa Mesa City Hall



## Community calendar

**Nov 18 FRIDAY** **The Christmas Company** with 94 vendors featuring holiday items will continue through Sunday at the **OC Fair and Event Center**. Open Friday 10 a.m.-9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. General admission \$10.

**Nov 19 SATURDAY** **The Piccadilly Circus** at the **OC Fair & Event Center** is a two-day event that offers families an exciting hour and a half of agile acrobats, motorcycle madness, comedic circus clowns and more. Show times: Saturday 1:30, 4:30, and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 1, 3:30 and 6 p.m. Admission: General adult \$28, child (13 and under) \$11; Ringside VIP: Adult \$35, child (13 and under) \$7. Parking: General \$5, Preferred \$8.

**Nov 20 SUNDAY** **The Costa Mesa Historical Society** will feature an afternoon with Pearl Harbor survivor Jack Hammett, who will show a video about the attack on Pearl Harbor. A short talk will follow. Doors open at 2 p.m. and the program will begin at 2:30. Admission is free. The Historical Society is at 1870 Anaheim Avenue in Lions Park. For more information call (949) 631-5918.

**Nov 24 THURSDAY** City Hall closed Thursday for the Thanksgiving holiday.

**Nov 25 FRIDAY** City Hall closed Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday.

**Nov 26 SATURDAY** **"Crossroads of the West Gun Show"** will take place all-day at the **OC Fair & Event Center**. For more than 30 years this gun show has been the largest on the West Coast. Admission: \$14. Children 11 and younger are free. Continues Sunday.

The beloved South Coast Repertory rendition of "A Christmas Carol" runs through Christmas Eve. Ticket information [here](#).

**Nov 27 SUNDAY** **"Crossroads of the West Gun Show"** will take place all-day at the **OC Fair & Event Center**. For more than 30 years this gun show has been the largest on the West Coast. Admission: \$14. Children 11 and younger are free.

**Nov 28 MONDAY** **The OC Fair & Event Center** is holding a Christmas tree sale now through Dec. 18. Flocking and wreaths are also available. Tree prices; Noble Fir \$35.99 and Douglas Fir \$25.99. Free admission and parking.

For a complete list of community events, click [here](#).



South Coast Repertory rendition of "A Christmas Carol"



Information and photo courtesy of the Costa Mesa Historical Society

## MAKING HISTORY

In 1937, the David Johnson Gardner Jr. family settled on two acres on the northeast corner of 20th Street and Newport Boulevard. The Gardners ran a ranch of up to 4,000 chickens before going into the printing business in 1947. Their roadside stand at 2028 Newport Boulevard was open Thursdays to Sundays selling eggs, dressed chickens and produce. Shown in the photo to the left is Gardner's son, Dave, age 10, standing in front of the family ranch house. The house was set back from Newport Boulevard 75 yards, leaving ample room for the lawn croquet court visible in the foreground.



## CEO's Office



### Asked and Answered

Follow-ups to questions recently asked to city officials.

**Under the "Transparency" page of the Costa Mesa website, there's a link to the City's monthly legal fees. Are those fees listed by the month they were accrued or the month they were paid?**

They are listed by the month they were paid.

**Also regarding those fees, several law firms were paid in November that didn't show up on the City's monthly legal fees list. Why?**

Those law firms were hired by the Costa Mesa Redevelopment Agency and those expenses don't show up on the City's monthly legal fees list. We are working to make the list clearer in several different ways. Those changes should be done by next week.

**Are there deed restrictions on TeWinkle Park that would prevent a sports complex run by a private-public partnership?**

Our initial assessment is no, but City Attorney Tom Duarte is further researching the issue and will have an answer soon.

**What kind of charges should residents expect if they have to use Care Ambulance Service for a medical emergency?**

Care representatives will be attending an upcoming City Council meeting to give a report on the costs.

## Development Services



### Mesa Verde Senior Housing development moves forward

Three separate sets of plans were submitted into plan check last week for the Mesa Verde Senior Housing project at 1500 Mesa Verde Drive East. They include plans for a lot line adjustment, grading and a block wall. As part of the project, a lot line adjustment will be processed between the Von's Center and the Mesa Verde Senior Apartments.

The grading plan consists of grading and on-site improvements, incorporating an on-site storm drain, catch basins, paving and more. In addition, a plan for the construction of a 180-lineal-foot, 10-foot high block wall is proposed. It is expected to be constructed along the rear perimeter of the site separating the commercial center from the new residential development.

These are the initial steps for the master plan development of the 7.55-acre site at the northeast corner of Harbor Boulevard and Mesa Verde Drive East with 230 senior housing units. The apartments will be included within two, two- to four-story buildings with outdoor patios and balconies, common outdoor amenities, and parking.

—Minoo Ashabi

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<http://tinyurl.com/ebriefing> message and data rates may apply



## Police Department

### Teacher: Thanks Officer Kurt Lystne for catching two alleged thieves

*The following excerpts are from an e-mail sent last week to Costa Mesa Police Chief Tom Gazsi.*



Hi, my name is Connie Willson, and I have been a teacher for over 30 years at Christ Lutheran School and Church on Victoria Street in Costa Mesa. I would like to tell you a story that happened on the weekend of Nov. 5, 2011.

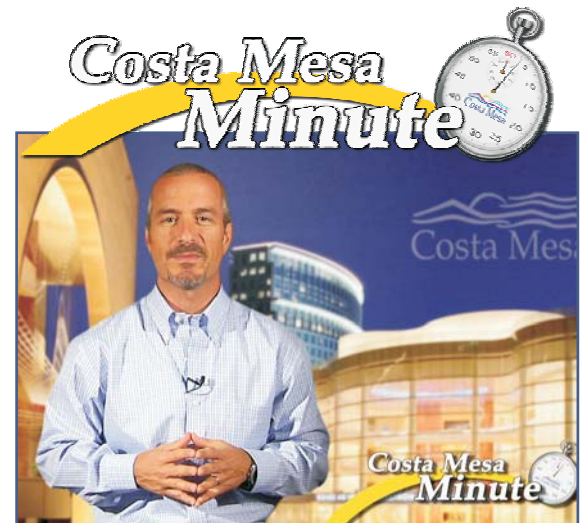
I had arrived at my school on Sunday, Nov. 6 around 8:30 a.m. to get my students ready to sing in church that morning. Upon entering my classroom, I discovered that several items were strewn around the floor, that my desk had been rummaged through with items broken nearby, and the worst thing I found, was that several very important items had been taken, among them being my new digital camera, our classroom VHS and DVD player, our \$300 record player, my large boom box and my personal vintage guitar!

... Now is where your wonderful Officer Lystne comes into play. Officer **Kurt Lystne** took the call and responded immediately. He was just about to leave on his lunch break, but he gave that up to come to our school. He met [computer lab teacher, Pete Bouffard] at school and went on a very thorough search of our campus.

He and Pete actually went to the house [where the school believed the suspects lived, based on surveillance tapes], and he would not give up until two men opened the door. One of these men, who is a minor, was very disrespectful to the officer, and even though this young man began swearing and became violent, Officer Kurt stayed calm and made sure these two suspects were taken to jail to question.

Not only did he do an outstanding job with them, he went back to the same house the same day, and got permission from their mom to search their house. He found many items which matched our descriptions and was able to get back a number of them. He then went back to the jail and questioned the men even further, and witnessed their confession to breaking, entering and vandalizing our campus. Not only did he continue to fill out the report, he again went back to the house to retrieve the rest of the stolen items!!

Because of Officer Kurt and his professional conduct, which went over and above the call of duty, I can now tell you that I have received back all of my stolen items, including my treasured guitar, and can sleep at night ... Our whole school is grateful to him and on a personal note, I can never thank him enough!



### "Costa Mesa Minute" A daily video featuring news and information about Costa Mesa

Weekdays on Costa Mesa Television  
Channel 24 (Time Warner Cable)  
Channel 99 (AT&T U-verse)

Facebook  
([www.facebook.com/CostaMesaCityHall](http://www.facebook.com/CostaMesaCityHall))  
and on the City's website.





## Public Services



### Paving paradise in Costa Mesa

The City's Street Maintenance Crew recently completed the repaving of Westminster Avenue, the fifth of 15 residential streets that are rehabilitated annually through this in-house maintenance program. Following the application of more than 210 tons of asphalt, the City's Signs & Markings Crew installed new center line striping and thermo-plastic 'STOP' messages for a finished product.



### City's street crews complete another street!

City staff is shown marking out manhole locations on the recently completed Pamela Lane project, one of the 15 yearly residential asphalt reconstruction projects performed by in-house maintenance personnel. The project included street edge grinding, local asphalt reconstruction, crack sealing, manhole/utility adjusting and finally, a full two-inch asphalt overlay.

### Residents sought for TeWinkle Park Athletic Complex Task Force

The City of Costa Mesa continues to seek community members to serve on the recently formed TeWinkle Park Athletic Complex Task Force, which will consist of nearby residents, sports advocates and at-large members. The deadline to apply is next Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 5 p.m.

The task force will be looking at the potential for a public-private partnership to manage the ball fields at the park.

If you are interested, please contact Alma Reyes at (714) 754-5024 to obtain an application or visit the **City's website** ([www.costamesaca.gov](http://www.costamesaca.gov)). All applications need to be submitted to the Public Services Department, 77 Fair Drive, Fourth Floor, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.



### Lynnette Dodge promoted to administrative secretary

**Lynnette Dodge**—who worked full-time as an office specialist II in the Central Services Division and most recently as a part-timer in the Recreation Division—has been promoted to full-time administrative secretary in the Public Services Department.

Lynnette has been with the City for nearly five years and has provided excellent support services to the various City departments and the public. With her varied City experience, she will be a great asset to the Public Services Department. Congratulations, Lynnette!

## FINAL WORD

### Ask what you can do for your country

By Michael Josephson

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy invoked my generation to "[a]sk not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

We are fortunate to live in a free and democratic society where millions of civilians and soldiers serve their fellow citizens. Last Friday was Veteran's Day, and the weekend provided the nation a special opportunity to honor and express gratitude to the millions of living military veterans and thousands of active duty men and women who have or are serving our country.

In 1995, an Air Force pilot named Scott O'Grady was shot down during a flight mission over Bosnia. He was rescued by helicopter after surviving six days being hunted by hostile ground troops. Though given a hero's welcome he insisted he was no hero and that he wanted no honors.

In explaining his position rejecting special recognition, he said "[It] your depth of commitment, your quality of service, the product of your devotion—these are the things that count in a life. When you give purely, the honor comes in the giving, and that is honor enough."

Other great men have told us of the true rewards of service. Albert Schweitzer said, "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve." Walter Reuther, a leader of the labor movement, echoed the sentiment this way: "There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow men. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well."

This excerpt from a poem called **"You Don't Know Me,"** by Linda Ellis provides a perspective and a tribute that transcends politics. (She also wrote the classic poem "The Dash.")

*Although you don't know me, every day, I think of you.  
I worry about your safety and I pray for you, too.*

*Although you don't know me, please know that I care.  
Though strangers, we are family in the beliefs that we share.*

*Although you don't know me, I know the work that you're doing  
and the pride in our country that you are renewing.*

*Although you don't know me, you have my utmost respect  
for it's the future of my children you are there to protect.*

*Although you don't know me and we've never met,  
the gift that you're giving is one I'll never forget.*

*Although you don't know me, my heart beats with hesitation,  
when I hear you're being deployed to an "undisclosed location."*

*Although you don't know me, I know the fears you must hide  
for a soldier in uniform is bravery, exemplified.*

*Although you don't know me, please know by this poem  
that I'll pray for you faithfully until your safe return home.*

*Although you don't know me, you've made me one proud  
civilian,  
but you need to know today that I'm only one in a million!*



Michael Josephson is founder of the Josephson Institute, whose goal is to increase ethical commitment, competence, and practice in all segments of society. You can subscribe to Michael Josephson's free newsletters [here](#).

## SECRET SPOTTED



**Answer:** Costa Mesa City Hall.